

Tiger: Onload of Abe family members Feb. 9

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Lincoln the morning of Feb. 9.

In order to ensure the safety of Tiger Cruise guests, guidelines for age and health are strictly adhered to.

"We're an operational ship, we're underway, and we are an aircraft carrier. These factors are inherently dangerous, so there are requirements for passengers," said White. "There is an age requirement minimum of 8, and we're basically talking about being healthy."

"Think of the average American Sailor. He or she is a healthy individual, fully mobile, with all limbs, no crutches or casts," said White. "Heart attack victims, guests with asthma, those who need oxygen, and those who need special care unfortunately cannot participate in the Tiger Cruise. We have to think about safety, and safety is paramount."

"Otherwise the sky's the limit," said White. "We just have to make sure that we've covered all the bases in regard to safety, both for the Tigers and the crew."

With the morning of the first day full of informational meetings and lectures for the Tigers, it's not going to be an easy one.

"Tigers will receive information about the ship, safety lectures, everything

down to learning how to egress a smoke-filled space wearing an EEBD," said White.

"We have to make sure they at least have an idea about what's going on and how to handle themselves in case of an emergency. They have to be fully prepared and full engaged."

"We want to get our Tigers into the mindset that 'Yes, we are going underway,'" said White. "Once the brow is pulled, there's no turning back."

"However, we also want to say that it's time to have some fun," said White. "That's really what it's all about, a little acclimation and a little introduction to the Navy. By the end of the cruise, they should all be pretty salty."

Following the mandatory safety briefs, the first night includes a welcome aboard from the commanding officer, who will host an ice cream social.

The second day boasts an air power demonstration by the Cougars of VAQ-139, with the rest of the day dedicated to showing off Abraham Lincoln as Tigers take tours throughout the ship. The evening will conclude with a round of Big Bucks Bingo, where MWR will give



Abraham Lincoln Photo Lab

A Sailor's guests arrive for Tiger Cruise during Lincoln's last deployment.

away the second of two cars.

"Tigers are allowed to play, but only a crewmember can win," said White. "Nonetheless, MWR will be playing a vital role in the excitement and energy of Tiger Cruise. They have sports tournaments set up, along with the usual compliment of games and activities."

The third day is a continuation of tours and activities, along with a steel beach picnic (weather permitting) and a talent show. It will all be capped off with Cinema at Sea.

"The intention is to keep the Tigers busy from reveille to taps," said White. "Learning the ship, learning from the crew, learning Navy traditions, enjoying their families and friends, and having a little fun as well."



Abraham Lincoln Photo Lab

Tigers chow down during a steel beach picnic.



Abraham Lincoln Photo Lab

Tigers tour Abraham Lincoln from the bottom up.